

Parent Alert: Board of Health Regulation Changes on Tobacco & More



Regulatory Changes as of September 1, 2016 include:

All stores in North Reading will no longer be authorized to sell a “flavored tobacco product.”

Establishment of a new minimum legal sale age for the sale of tobacco, prohibiting the sale of tobacco products (including electronic cigarettes/vaping devices and nicotine juices/liquids) to those under the age of 21.

Requirement of retailers to ask for and obtain a government-issue photographic identification card from all customers requesting tobacco products who appear to be under the age of 40.

What: On June 23, 2016 the North Reading Board of Health enacted an amendment to its tobacco control regulations, which restricts the sale of many flavored tobacco products, allowing them to be sold only in “retail tobacco stores.” Currently, no store holding a tobacco sale permit in North Reading operates as a “retail tobacco store.”

Why: Multiple studies have shown that the longer a young person can delay the use of tobacco, the less likely they will become addicted. Raising the buying age to 21 for nicotine and tobacco products is in trend with many Massachusetts cities and towns and is actively encouraged by the Northeast Tobacco Free Partnership and several state health agencies. In addition, flavored products are marketed to young people and can facilitate early use of tobacco products. Flavored nicotine is also attractive to young people. Young children wishing to “taste” the liquid are at risk of suffering from nicotine poisoning if ingested topically or by ingestion.



Tobacco, Vaping and Nicotine Products for Parents to Be Aware of:

little cigars	dip/snuf	spitless chew	meltables	eCigarettes
eJoints	eHookahs	flavored wraps	blunts	vaping liquid

Good to Know

The North Reading High School handbook includes violations on vaping, eCigarettes and delivery devices.

Although many vaping liquids claim to be nicotine-free, this product is unregulated and many have been proven to contain nicotine and other carcinogens such as diacetyl, a chemical known to cause lung disease.

North Reading is now in alignment with over 120 Massachusetts cities in towns with a tobacco 21 regulation versus an 18-year-old buying age.